

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 INT-08 COME-00 STR-08

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SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 DRC-01 /177 W

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POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: CANADIAN-U.S. OIL RELATIONS: PRESS REPORTS

1. NOVEMBER 16 OTTAWA JOURNAL CARRIES BANNER HEADLINED

"NIXON TAKES SWIPE AT OUR POLICY." JOURNAL STATES

"NIXON TOOK A SWIPE AT CANADA'S OIL POLICY WITH

REMARKS THURSDAY THAT 'OUR CANADIAN FRIENDS...CAN BE

PRETTY TOUGH ON US SOMETIMES WHEN THEY ARE LOOKING

DOWN OUR THROATS."

2. JORNAL REPORTS ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD "REACTED

SWIFTLY BY SAYING THURSDAY EVENING THAT HE THOUGHT THE

PRESIDENT WAS 'PUTTING IT A LITTLE STRONGLY.'"

MACDONALD, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE, "ALSO POINTED OUT

THAT THREE YEARS AGO THE UNITED STATES WAS GIVING THE

COLD SHOULDER TO CANADIAN EFFORTS TO SELL MORE OIL ON

THE U.S. MARKET. HE SAID IF THE AMERICANS HAD IT THEIR

WAY, THEY WOULD PUT THEIR OWN INTERESTS FIRST AND

CANADA'S SECOND IN USING CANADIAN OIL."

3. PRESIDENT FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING (WITH REGARD TO

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CANADIAN POLICY), "BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT. I DON'T

COMPLIAN ABOUT IT," AND DESCRIBED THE PRESENT CANADIAN ATTITUDE AS BEING "BUSINESS."

4. JOURNAL EDITORIAL OF SAME DATE DWELLS ON FOLLOWING "DAYDREAMS".

(A) "CANADA CAN AND SHOULD INSULATE ITSELF COMPLETELY FROM THE U.S. OIL SHORTAGE."

(B) "CANADA CAN AND SHOULD OPEN WIDE ITS OIL FIELDS TO THE U.S., TO 'SOLVE' THE FUTURE SHORTAGE AND ENJOY AN ECONOMIC BONANZA IN THE PROCESS."

(C) THAT THE ATHABASCA OIL SANDS ARE THE FUTURE ANSWER TO U.S. OIL PROBLEMS.

5. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS: "THERE'S NO SCOPE FOR DAYDREAMING ABOUT NATIONAL OIL POLICY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. IT IS REALISTIC TO SEE CANADA AS A GOOD NEIGHBOR TO THE U.S. IT IS VITAL TO REMEMBER THAT WE'RE A GOOD LITTLE (ITALICS) NEIGHBOR. IF WE LET DAYDREAMS OBSCURE THAT REALITY, NIGHTMARES COULD RESULT."

6. TORONTO STAR OF NOVEMBER 16 RUNS SIMILAR BUT LESS PROMINENT STORY, COMMENTING THAT "IRONICALLY, NIXON'S COMMENTS CAME ONLY HOURS AFTER A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAD SPRUNG TO OTTAWA'S DEFENCE DURING A CRITICAL HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SUBMCOMMITTEE HEARING." SCHMIDT

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